

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
5 January 2016

Original: English

Seventieth session

Agenda item 119

Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations**Letter dated 4 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Upon instructions from my Government, and referring to your note dated 21 January 2015, which refers to General Assembly resolution 69/121 of 10 December 2014, entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives", I wish to state the following with regard to the recent incidents involving the premises of the Consulate General and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Mashad and Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, respectively:

1. On Saturday, 2 January 2016, a large group of people gathered in front of the Saudi Arabian Consulate General in Mashad in protest against the unjustified and provocative execution of the high-ranking spiritual leader Ayatollah Sheikh Bagher Nimr Al-Nimr, arrested in 2012 in Saudi Arabia, following his efforts to advance democracy and freedom of speech, and beheaded by sword on 2 January 2016. Necessary measures, including an increase in the number of security forces, were taken to prevent any assault against the premises of the Consulate. Unfortunately, however, the objects hurled by a number of the protesters hit the glass windows of the premises.

2. On the same date, numerous protesters (around 8,000) staged a peaceful demonstration in front of the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Tehran following the announcement of the execution of Sheikh Nimr. Some of the protesters, unfortunately, got out of control at around 11.00 p.m., and, despite the extensive efforts made by the law enforcement authorities, some of them managed to enter the Embassy and inflict some damage on the building.

3. Upon the arrival of police reinforcements, the protesters left the Embassy. More than 40 protesters were identified, arrested and handed over to the judicial authorities. An investigation is under way seeking to find other possible perpetrators.

4. While emphasizing its obligations in accordance with international law and relevant international instruments, especially the Vienna Convention on

16-00089 (E) 070116



Please recycle



Diplomatic Relations of 1961 and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963, the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its regret over the referred-to incidents and will spare no efforts in arresting and prosecuting all those who brought them about. The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in his message, stressed the need to pursue the issue and bring the elements behind the incidents to justice and provided necessary directions to the relevant government agencies, including the Ministry of the Interior. The Chief of the Judiciary also reiterated the need to pursue this case in all its aspects.

5. The Islamic Republic of Iran will take necessary measures to prevent the occurrence of similar incidents in the future.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 119.

(Signed) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative